

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been objected to. Applicant's representative has been unable to determine any difference between amended claim 1 and the marked up version of amended claim 1. Both appear to present the same claim. Please telephone Robert Lipcsik at the below listed telephone number to resolve this if the Examiner maintains this objection.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-12 have been rejected as anticipated by Dowe, US 4,649,881. Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dowe in view of Chuang, 6,166,662. Claims 3 has been allowed.

Claim 1 recites the first membrane resisting movement of the depressible member simultaneously with the second membrane, the first and second membranes providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in combined return forces applied to the depressible member by the first and second membranes. Dowe discloses a multistage switch assembly with a first dome (7) that provides a first tactile snap and a second dome (9) that provides a second tactile snap (Cols. 3-4, lines 59-68 & 1-7). As the push button (13) of Dowe is pressed downward, the first dome (7) snaps before the first dome (7) comes into contact with the second dome (9) (Col. 3, lines 37-47). Thus, Dowe does not disclose a first membrane resisting movement of a depressible member simultaneously with a second membrane. Further, Dowe does not

disclose the first and second membranes providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in combined return forces applied to the depressible member by the first and second membranes. Claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 4-10 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 recites a second condition wherein the first and second membranes both resist movement of a depressible member. Dowe discloses a multistage switch assembly with a first dome (7) that provides a first tactile snap and a second dome (9) that provides a second tactile snap (Cols. 3-4, lines 59-68 & 1-7). As the push button (13) of Dowe is pressed downward, the first dome (7) snaps before the first dome (7) comes into contact with the second dome (9) (Col. 3, lines 37-47). Thus, Dowe does not disclose a condition wherein first and second membranes both resist movement of a depressible member.

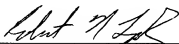
Claim 11 further recites the first and second membranes providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in combined return forces applied to the depressible member. Dowe does not disclose the first and second membranes providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in combined return forces applied to the depressible member by the first and second membranes. The first dome (7) of Dowe snaps before the second dome (9). Claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account

No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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